

Rule out Bush as Veep: Jackson

By Arthur Siddon

Chicago Tribune Press Service

WASHINGTON—George Bush refused again Tuesday to disavow any interest in being Vice President, causing Sen. Henry Jackson (D., Wash.) to urge President Ford to rule out Bush as a running mate in 1976.

Jackson's suggestion came as the Senate Armed Services Committee concluded its second and final day of hearings into Bush's nomination to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Although Jackson and at least three other members of the 16-member committee indicated they will vote against Bush, the committee is expected to recommend that he be confirmed later this week.

THE PRIMARY opposition to Bush came from Sen. Frank Church (D., Idaho), chairman of the Senate Select Intelligence Committee, who objected not only to Bush's possible vice presidential candidacy, but also his two years as chairman of the Republican National Committee.

"It is one thing to choose an individual who may have had political experience — say, someone like Elliot Richardson now commerce secretary or John Sherman Cooper, [ambassador to East Germany] two men of proven independence and muted partisan background — and quite another to choose someone whose principal political role has been that of chairman of the Republican National Committee," Church said.

Stating that the professional reputation of the CIA is at stake, Church said

that despite a personal liking for Bush and an admiration for his abilities, he would fight Bush's nomination.

"It appears the White House may be using this post simply as a grooming room until Mr. Bush is brought on next year as a vice presidential candidate," Church said.

"LET'S NOT make a travesty of our efforts to reform the CIA," he said. "What is at stake right now is the professional reputation of the intelligence community and the confidence of the American people. We are talking about director of the CIA, not an appointment to the postoffice."

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.) challenged Church's statement that Bush has never stood up to a President of his party to tell the President he is wrong.

"Mr. Bush was the first man, to my knowledge, who let the President [former President Nixon] know that he should go," Goldwater said, referring to the days just before Nixon resigned in August, 1974.

Later, Bush confirmed for the first time that he had written such a letter to Nixon while serving as Republican chairman.

"I DIDN'T CALL a press conference and announce it," Bush said. "People who worked with me at the Republican National Committee can certify that I resisted other pressures from the White House, as well," he said.

Both Church and Jackson, who have been mentioned as possible Democratic presidential candidates, said they oppose Bush because he might be a Republican vice presidential candidate.